

REMARKS

As a result of an Examiner Interview on December 15, 2004, with Examiner Subramanian, Applicant submits the present amendments and remarks.

A. Examiner Interview

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.133 and MPLP 713.04, a statement of the substance of the interview is submitted herein as follows. No exhibits were shown and no demonstrations were conducted. Applicant submits that during the Examiner Interview, all pending claims were generally discussed, but claims 1 and 14 were discussed with greater particularity than other pending claims. In the Examiner Interview, the primary reference cited in the previous Office Action, i.e. U.S. Patent No. 5,893,017, was generally discussed. Amendments that would result in the allowability of the patent application were discussed and agreed upon as set forth by the Amendments herewith. Specifically, agreement was reached to amend independent claims 1 and 14 based on features recited in claim 24. No additional pertinent matters were discussed. The Examiner agreed that, upon amendment of the claims as set forth herein, the claims would (likely) be in condition of allowance.

B. Status of Claims

Claims 1-20, 25, and 28 appear in this application. Claims 1 and 14 are amended to further clarify features already existing in each such claim. Claims 2-20 are original claims which were presented in this application as filed. Claims 24, 26, and 27 are canceled without prejudice. New claim 28 is added to the application with this amendment.

C. Amendments

In the Amendment filed on July 7, 2004, Applicant respectfully traversed the conclusions of the Examiner. However, to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicant revises the pending claims pursuant to the suggestion of the Examiner and reserves the opportunity to pursue the original and additional claims through further prosecution of a continuing application directed accordingly.

In this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 24, 26, and 27 without prejudice and amends claims 1, 14, and 25 in accordance with the substance of the Examiner

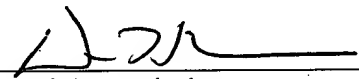
Interview. New dependent method claim 28 is directed to subject matter of counterpart dependent system claim 25, which was previously pending in the application. Cancellations of and amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite prosecution of the present application and do not constitute an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the application. As mentioned above, Applicant reserves the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the present or a subsequent application. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-20, 25, and 28 are pending in the present application.

D. Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the claims are patentable over the cited art and respectfully requests an early indication of allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any additional information is required. If the Examiner believes the pending application is not in condition for allowance, for whatever reason, Applicant hereby formally requests an interview with the Examiner to resolve any outstanding matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 7, 2005


Daniel J. Hulseberg (Reg. No. 36,554)

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP
Customer No. 28765

(212) 294-3310